BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

THIRTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

UNION BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH THE

FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH, PICKENS COUNTY, ALA.,

SEPTEMBER 21st AND 23rd, 1872.

The next Session to be held with Mineral Spring Church, Pickens Co., Ala., commencing on Saturday September 20th, 1873.

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PROCEEDINGS.

The Thirty-seventh Annual Session of the UNION BAPTIST ASSOCIATION was held with the Fellowship Baptist Church, Pickens county, Ala., commencing on Saturday, 21st September, 1872.

Introductory Sermon was delivered at 11 A. M., by Elder W. H. Robertson, by request of Elder G. M. Lyles, the appointee.

After a recess of one hour, the delegates assembled in the meeting-house for the transaction of business. The Moderator, Elder J. C. Foster, called the body to order, and after reading 51st Psalm, prayer was offered by Elder M. P. Smith.

Letters from the Churches were read, and the names of delegates enrolled.

The Association was organized by the re-election of Elder J. C. FOSTER Moderator, and H. B. CHAPPELLE, Clerk.

On motion, Bro. D. N. Hicks was received as delegate from Hebron church, without a letter from said church.

On motion, visiting brethren were invited to seats and to take part in our deliberations.

On motion, received correspondence from other Associations: New River, Bro. I. N. Asheraft, with letter and package of minutes; Columbus Association, Elder W. H. Robertson, J. Norris and J. T. Stinson, were received and cordially invited to seats; Yellow Creek Association, a package of minutes.

On motion, following committees appointed:

On Preaching—J. W. Mitchel, A. Latham, J. J. Lee, E. H. Lamb, Pastor and Deacons of Fellowship church.

Order of Business—M. P. Smith, J. P. Lee, and G. M. Lyles.

Education—Robert Keith, W. G. Robertson, Clark Richey.

Correspondence—L. M. Stone, J. H. Stinson.

Documents—J. J. Lee, U. E. Allen, J. M. Smith.

Nominations—A. P. Hodo, Iredell Teer, A. C. Robertson.

Finance—W. G. Robertson, J. W. Hanson.

Deceased Deacons—L. M. Stone, E. H. B. Liverman, I. M. Foster.

The Committee on Preaching made a report, adopted: Prayer-meeting to-morrow, 10 A. M., conducted by Elder R. T. Hanks; the annual Missionary Sermon, according to appointment, by Elder P. F. Terrell, and preaching at 1 P. M., by Elder J. L. West.

J. J. LEE, Chm.

On motion, adjourned until Monday morning, 9 o'clock. Prayer by Elder J. L. West.

THE LORD'S DAY.

The public worship of God was conducted in accordance with the report of Committee on Preaching, except the annual Missionary Sermon, which was delivered by Elder R. Keith, in consequence of the physical inability of Elder P. F. Terrell, from an attack of fever. The congregation was large, and marked attention was given to the preaching of the Gospel.

MONDAY, 9 O'CLOCK, A. M.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment, and was opened with prayer

by Elder R. T. Hanks. The Committee on Order of Business made their report, which was adopted, and was observed in the following order:

1. Roll called, and absentees marked.
2. Minutes of Saturday read and approved.
3. Read Constitution and Rules of Decorum.
4. Returned correspondence to other Associations:

To the Tuskaloosa—To convene with the Dunn's Creek Church, 19 miles West of Tuskaloosa, near Shirley's Bridge, on Sipsey River, Saturday before the 2nd Sabbath in October. 1872—J. H. Pate, I. L. Holman, E. Howell, J. W. Mitchell, I. Hllingsworth, H. Strickland.

To the Columbus—To convene with the Trinity church, 8 miles North of Barton, Friday before the 2nd Sabbath in September, 1873—J. P. Lee, G. M. Lyles, J. H. Stinson, J. A. Burgin, J. D. Walker, R. Keith.

To the New River—To convene with the Union church, 10 miles N. E. of Fayetteville, Saturday before 2nd Sab. in Sept. 1873—W. Vail, I. Hollingsworth, E. Howell, J. Bradley, E. D. Byrd.

To the Yellow Creek—To convene with the Shiloh church, 3 miles S. E. of Moscow, Saturday before 1st Sab. in Oct. 1872—P. H. Howard, B. Pearson.

5. Circular Letter read; on motion, adopted and ordered to be printed.

6. Reports from District Meetings were read and adopted:

First District—The next meeting of the District is to be held with Pleasant Grove church, Sanford county, Friday before the 4th Sabbath in July '73. Introductory Sermon by Elder J. M. Carpenter; Elder J. W. Guyton, alternate. Missionary sermon, Elder E. Howell; alternate, Eld. I. Hollingsworth. *Queries for discussion:* 1st. Has a church the *right* to demand a reason for an application of a letter of dismission? 2nd. What should be done to remove the great Spiritual declension that is now so prevalent among the churches? *Essays* read: 1. The power and benefit of fervent prayer—A. P. Hodo. 2nd. Did the humanity or the divinity of Christ suffer on the Cross? J. W. Mitchell.

Second District—The next annual meeting will be held with Oak Ridge church, Friday before the 1st Sabbath in Aug. 1873. Introductory sermon by Elder James DeLoach; alternate, Elder J. M. Land. Missionary sermon by Elder G. M. Lyles; alternate, Elder D. Duncan. *Queries* for discussion:—1. To whom did Christ allude in Math. 11: 11? 2. Did the divinity or humanity of Christ suffer? 3. Was the kingdom of Christ fully established and completed prior to the day of Pentacost? *Essays* read: 1. The best mode of promoting practical piety in our churches.—John H. Stinson. 2. By whom should the Missionary work be carried on and sustained.—Jesse T. Hancock. 3. Are Sunday Schools scriptural?—J. B. Kilpatrick. 4. Church Discipline.—G. M. Lyles. 5. Does the Scripture authorize the intercommunion of Baptist churches?—E. J. Dallin.

Third District—To convene with Baptist church at Pickensville, Friday before the 5th Sabbath in August 1873. Introductory Sermon by Elder S. Hildreth; alternate, Elder J. P. Lee. Missionary sermon by Elder W. Ashcraft; alternate, Elder R. Keith. *Queries:* 1. To what state of perfection may a christian arrive in this life, and how may it be attained? 2. Is it right for members of Baptist churches to join Temperance societies organized in secrecy? *Essays* read: 1. The great importance of every member of the churches abstaining from the use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage.—L. M. Stone. 2. The duty and importance of the churches assembling every Sabbath for Divine worship of some character.—R. Keith.

FOURTH DISTRICT—The next meeting to be held with New Hope church, Friday before the 4th Sabbath in August 1873. Introductory sermon by Eld. Wm. Ashcraft; alternate, Elder M. P. Smith. Missionary sermon by Elder J. C. Foster. *Queries* for discussion: 1. The influence of a regular prayer-meeting upon the prosperity of the church, and the duty of members to attend and engage in its exercise.—To be opened by bros. James S. Kenner and Grant Taylor. 2. What is the responsibility of each particular christian with regard to the conversion of the world?—Opened by bros. Jacob Parker and N. Cobb.

The following Query was discussed at last meeting, viz: "Is it right for church members to make or sell intoxicating spirits?" *Answered:* "It is not." The following resolution was adopted: *Resolved*, That we recommend to the churches to exercise such discipline as to prohibit their members from *making, selling* or *drinking* ardent spirits as a beverage.

7. Report of Executive Committee, adopted:

TREASURER'S REPORT.

To cash received of Clerk		$308 57
" " "	A. Latham	17 50
" " "	Jno. T. Stinson	7 30
		$333.37

CR.

By cash paid Elder Wm. Ashcraft	150.00
Balance on hand	$183.37

L. M. STONE, Treas. Ex. Board.

8. Report of Committee on Missions read, and pending the adoption of said report, the order of business was suspended; when $313.50 was pledged by the churches and delegates present, for the support of missionary work within the bounds of the Association. Resumed Order of Business and adopted report as follows:

REPORT ON MISSIONS.

Your committee report, that while the present impoverished condition of our churches forbids our rendering that material aid to this great cause which its importance demands, yet we recognize it as a christian duty, that rests upon every individual of our denomination, to encourage and support by annual contributions, according to his ability, the cause of Missions.—"Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature," is a great command of the Gospel. The command is imperative. There is no condition or limitation annexed to it. The field is immense; embracing the whole world. The duty is evident. Perishing millions all over the world now turn their eager eyes to the true Christian, and beseech him to come forward to the discharge of this great duty. Our Association has great reason to rejoice at the good work done within our bounds during the last twelve months. Brother William Ashcraft has labored zealously ond faithfully as our Missionary during 1872, and his labors have been abundantly blessed. God will always bless the faithful laborer in his vineyard.

But while we are devoted to the Missionary work within our own Association, and experience God's blessings which flow from a discharge of duty, we should feel more disposition to sustain and enlarge our operations in foreign lands. The letters from our churches give no cheering news in reference to foreign missions, but rather indicate an abatement of interest in the cause. Brethren, let us take no step backward. "Speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward" in the great work of Missions. Let every christian as God has prospered him, see to it that the poor have the Gospel preached unto them."

Your committee recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That this Association will continue the good work of supporting a Missionary within our bounds, and that the necessary funds be immediately raised by subscription. LEWIS M. STONE, Chm.

On motion, adjourned for half hour. Prayer by Elder James DeLoach.

MONDAY, 2 O'CLOCK P. M.

The Association met; prayer by Elder R. Keith.

9. Following report of Committee on Nominations, adopted: Next Introductory Sermon by Elder J. C. Foster; alternate, Elder J. P. Lee. Annual Missionary Sermon by Elder Wm. Ashcraft; alternate, Elder Robert Keith. Brother Wm. G. Robertson write the next Circular Letter. Subject—"The Scriptural qualifications for partaking of the Lord's Supper."

I. TEER, Chm.

10. Report of Committee on Deceased Ministers and Deacons, adopted:

Your committee report, that since our last meeting it has pleased Divine Providence to remove from this life our beloved brother HARMON NIX, who was a Deacon in Grant's Creek Church. Brother Nix was over 70 years of age, and had been a member of the Baptist Church over forty years. He was a useful, zealous and devoted christian, punctual in the discharge of every duty, and exerted by his pious walk and example a wholesome influence both in his own household and in the community in which he resided.

Resolved, That this Association tender to Grant's Creek Church, and to the afflicted family of our deceased brother, our warmest sympathy in their bereavement.

LEWIS M. STONE, Chirman.

11. Following Report of Committee on Documents, adopted:

Letters have been received from all the churches in this Association. We regret to notice that the aggregate membership of all the churches composing this Association, as compared with that of last year, shows a decrease of one hundred and twelve. We find that all the churches are supplied with pastors, and that they labor faithfully, yet in many of the churches the complaint of coldness is reported. We believe that this is caused by a lack of duty on the part of the members. We would therefore recommend that each church establish a weekly prayer-meeting.

We also recommend, that this Association comply with the request of New River and Yellow Creek Associations asking correspondence. All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. J. LEE, Chm.

12. Report of Committee on Education adopted.

13. Following Report of Committee on Finance, adopted:

Received from the Churches for Minutes					$67 05
"	"	"	"	Association	32 50
"	"	"	"	Foreign Missions	1 00
"	"	"	"	Indian Missions	50
"	"	"	"	Missionary in Association	52 17
"	"	"	"	R. T. Hanks	21 35
"	"	"	"	J. L. West	3 00
"	"	Carrollton Church for S. S. Board			10 00
"	"	Collection on Sabbath for S. S. Board			5 00
"	"	Enon church for Church at Rome			13 50
"	"	Mrs. Suggs for Foreign Missions			1 00
"	"	Mrs. Belsher for Home Missions			1 00
Collection on Sabbath for Home Missions					9 85
"	"	" Foreign Missions			9 85
					$227.77

Respectfully submitted, J. W. HANSON, Chm.

14. Report of Committee on Correspondence, adopted.

15. Appointed delegates to the Baptist State Convention, Eufaula, Ala., Friday before the 2nd Sabbath in November 1872: L. M. Stone, J. L. West, Wm. Ashcraft.

16. Appointed the next Session of the Association to be held with the Mineral Spring Baptist Church, 13 miles Northwest of Carrollton, commencing on Saturday before the 4th Sabbath in September, 1873.

17. Miscellaneous Business:

1. Following Report of Committee on Sabbath Schools read and adopted:

We have had the subject under serious consideration, and from all the information available we are led to believe that a great degree of negligence prevails in our churches generally in regard to this duty. Your committee must reiterate the opinion that Sabbath Schools, properly conducted, will always prove a potential auxiliary to the churches; affording a suitable opportunity of imparting religious instruction to youth, and of impressing the great truths of the Bible upon the minds of our children. We therefore urge upon the members of this Association, the *personal* duty of engaging in this work, and urging it upon the churches, till there shall be an organized school in every church. Respectfully submitted,

P. H. HOWARD, Chm.

2. On motion, the same Executive Missionary Board was continued, by placing brother W. G. Robertson as a member of the Board in place of Bro. A. Latham, who asked to be excused.

3. On motion, following committee appointed to report at next session of this body on *Sabbath Schools*—S. Hildreth, A. P. Hodo.

4. On motion, *Resolved*, That this body confide in the wisdom of the Executive Board, and that we will be fully satisfied with the action of said Board.

Resolved, That the funds paid in for missionary operations, and the pledges for the same, be placed at the disposal of said Board.

5. *Ordered*, That the Clerk superintend the printing and distribution of the Minutes in conjunction with those of the Sunday School Convention, and to retain out of Association fund $25 for his services. That he pay the funds to the respective Boards, and all funds unappropriated were ordered to be paid to the Executive Board for missionary operations.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Association be tendered to the members of Fellowship Church and the community, for the kindness and hospitality extended to the delegates and visitors during its session.

On motion, adjourned. The delegates joined in singing a hymn and giving to each other the parting hand, after which prayer was offered by Elder Wm. Ashcraft. Truly have realized the sentiment of the Psalmist in this session of the Association, "Behold how good and how pleasant *it is* for brethren to dwell together in unity."

H. B. CHAPPELLE, Clerk. J. C. FOSTER, Moderator.

NOTE.—During the session of the Association services were conducted at the arbor by Elders R. Keith, W. H. Robertson, J. P. Lee and R. T. Hanks.

H. B. CHAPPELLE, in account with Union Baptist Association.

DR.

To cash received from Committee on Finance	$227.77

CR.

By cash paid Foreign Mission Board	$25	35
" " Sunday School Board	15	00
" " Domestic and Indian Mission Board	11	35
" " J. L. West	3	00
" " R. T. Hanks	21	35
" " Executive Committee	72	72
" " for printing Minutes	54	00
" " retained for services as Clerk	25	00
		$227.77

Union Baptist Association.

	CHURCHES.	DELEGATES. Absentees marked with a star, *	STATISTICS. Baptized	Received by Letter	Dismissed by Letter	Restored	Excluded	Deceased	White Males	White Females	Total White Members	Colored Members	AGGREGATE	Date of Constitution	CONTRIBUTIONS. Minutes	Association	Ministerial Education,	Missionary in the Association.	Aggregate Amount	Monthly Meetings	PASTORS.	CHURCH CLERKS AND THEIR POST OFFICES.
First Dis.	Bethlehem	J. C. Stokes,* A. P. Woolbright,* J. Bradly	5	3				1	9	19	28		28		2,00	1,00			5,00	3	J.W.Guyton,*	J. Bradley, Reform, Ala.
	Liberty	Eld.R.B.Wilkins, H.H.Sanders, Jno.W.Harris	6		6	2	3	2	17	37	54	1	55	1834	2,00	1,00			3,00	4	J.M.Carpenter	H H Sanders, "
	Mt. Pleasant	Eld.I.Hollingsworth, J.M.Parker, H.Strickland		2	1				16	47	63		63	1843	2,05	1,00			3,05	1	R. Jones	H Strickland, Gordo, Ala.
	Fellowship	A. P. Hodo, A. C. Richardson, P. H. Howard,	1	1	2				12	21	33		33	1833	2,00	1,00			3,00	1	S. Hildreth	P.R.Howard, Reform, "
	Corinth	J. W. Mitchel, I. L. Holman, N. Highsaw			1		1		24	35	59	2	61	1834	2,00	1,00			3,00	4	S. Hildreth	A.M.Mills, Sipsey T'pike
	Spring Hill, S	Eld. J. T. Wooton,* J. D. Walker, J. F. Clegg,	6	6	1		1		27	46	73		73	1836	2,00	1,00			3,00	2	J. S. Wooten	J DWalker, Providence Ala.
	Pleasant Grove	Eld. S. Howell, E. D. Bird, Wm. Vail	10	4	1	2	1		22	58	80	15	95		2,00	1,00			3,00	4	J. S. Wooten	F.W.Stokes, Mill Port, "
	Providence	W.C.Bell, A.J.Richardson,jr., J.B.Kilpatrick	1	3	2				10	23	33		33	1831	2,00	1,00		5,75	8,75	2	W. Asheraft	J B Kilpatrek, Providence
	SouthCarolina	J. T. Hancock*, Felix P. Adams, R. D. Bowles,	1	3	3			3	16	28	44		44	1824	2,00	1,00			3,00	3	J. P. Lee	F P.Adams Yorkville, Ala
	Mineral Spring	Eld.G.M.Lyles, Eld.Jas.DeLoach, I.M.Foster,	3	3	5		3		22	44	66	4	70	1855	4,00	1,00			5,00	1	G. M. Lyles	E J Daffin, Antioch, Ala.
	Oak Ridge	Eld. J. P. Lee, J. A. Burgin*, N. N. Davis*			12				26	37	63		63	1838	3,00	1,00			4,00	1	J. P. Lee	H L Williams, Pick'ville,
	Spring Hill, P.	J. H. Stinson, Jas. P. Gates, J. B. Acker	3	1	5	2	1	1	10	17	27	3	30		3,00	2,00			5,00	4	J. P. Lee	J H Stinson, "
	Hebron	D. N. Hicks*					1		2	10	12	1	13	1841	1,00				1,00		J. DeLoach	D N Hicks, Carrollton, Al.
Second Dis.	Big Creek	A. Latham, Jesse Jones*, A. Allen			4	1	6	1	18	54	72	14	86	1829	3,00	1,00			4,00	2	G.M. Lyles	T H Haynie, "
	Cross Roads	Eld. D. Duncan*, U. E. Allen, T. Oglesby*			2				7	19	26	5	31	1850	2,00	1,00			3,00	1	D. Duncan	U E Allen, "
	Pickensville	J. J. Lee, J. J. Ball*, A. M. Wilkins*	4	2				3	13	33	46		46	1847	3,00	1,00	21,35		25,35	1	L.M.Stone, jr.	J. J. Lee, Pickensville,
	Carrollton	Eld. Robt. Keith, W. G. Robertson, L. M. Stone,	7	4	4	1	3		22	56	78	8	86	1846	3,00	2,00		20,60	25,60	4	R. Keith	L M Stone, Carrollton, Ala
	Ebenezer	Eld. S. Hildreth, B.C.Walker*, H. Easterling*		4					10	31	41		41	1833	2,00	1,00			3,00	3	J.M. Carpenter	H Easterling, "
	Unity	J. W. Hanson, M. G. Lofton*, J. E. Carder		2	3		1	1	22	40	62	52	114	1829	3,00	2,00		5,00	10,00	1	W. Asheraft	J W Hanson, Olney, Ala.
Third Dis.	Enon	Clark Richey, H. B. Chappelle, J. D. Stapp*	1	3	3	1			15	40	55		55	1823	2,50	2,50	20,00	13,77	38,77	3	R. Keith	H B Chappelle Carrollton.
	Mount Zion	Amos Harton*, W. H. Richardson*, J. Noland*			6				33	33	66	6	72	1840	2,00	1,00			3,00	1	R. Kieth	S W McAliley, Sipsy Mills
	Forest	Eld. Wm. Asheraft, Iredell Teer, G. Taylor*		1	31		19		18	30	48	30	78	1835	3,00	50		5,05	8,55	3	W Asheraft,	G Taylor, Pleasant Grove
	Shiloh	J. T. Garner, J. W. Garner*, J. H. Holman		3	2	1	1	1	12	29	41	3	44	1857	1,00	1,00			2,00	4	M. P. Smith,	J T Garner, Jena, Ala.
	Beulah	Eld. M. P. Smith, E. H. Lamb, N. Cobb*		2	5	1	3		28	61	89	25	114	1833	3,00	2,00			5,00	1	M. P. Smith	E H Lamb, Union, Ala.
	Bethel	A. C. Robertson, Jas. Skinner, E.W.Henderson		1	5		4	1	26	66	72	4	76	1834	2,50	1,50			4,00	3	R. Jones	E W Henderson, Union "
Fourth Dis.	New Hope	E. H. Patrick, A. M. Smith, J. M. Smith,		1			2		32	41	73	4	77	1839	2,00	2,00			4,00	4	J. C. Foster	J M Smith, Romulus, "
	Zion	Eld. Jacob Parker*, J. H. Pate, J. S. Shirley	3	5					19	38	57	2	59		2,00				2,00	2	M. P. Smith,	J D Parker, Pleas. Grove.
	Grant's Creek	Eld. J.C.Foster, P.H.Wilkerson*, E.B.Liverman			5		5	4	31	68	99	10	109	1828	4,00	1,00			5,00	1	J. C. Foster	J. S. Manly, Foster's, Ala.
			51	54	109	11	55	19	517	1061	1578	189	1767		67,05	32,50	358,20	345,07	193,57		* Supply,	

Collected cash and pledges for Eld.R.T.Hanks, $216,85 Pledges, $192,20.

CIRCULAR LETTER;

WRITTEN BY ELDER JOHN C. FOSTER.

THEOLOGICAL SCHOOLS.

DEAR BRETHREN—The subject selected for the Circular Letter for this year is, "Scriptural authority for *Theological Schools* and the qualifications necessary for students to enter these Schools."

Theological Schools, What are they?

They are schools where Theology is taught.

What is Theology? Theology is from two Greek words—*theos* and *logos*. Theos means God, and Logos word or discourse. Hence Webster defines Theology thus: "Divinity; the science of God and divine things; or the science which teaches the existence, character, and attributes of God, His laws and government, the doctrines we are to believe, and the duties we are to practice. Theology consists of two branches, *Natural* and *Revealed*.—*Natural theology* is the knowledge we have of God, from His works, by the light of nature and reason. *Revealed theology* is that which is to be learned only from revelation."—*Webster's Unabridged Dictionary.*

Christ after asserting His prerogative to His disciples, saying "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth," says further, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you."—Matt. 28: 18, 19, 20. "These things teach and exhort."—1. Tim. 6: 2.

The command to teach, implies study. Hence Paul says to Timothy, "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."—2. Tim. 2: 15. Christ says "search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me."—John 5: 39. The Apostle says, "The Holy Scriptures are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."—2. Tim. 3: 15. Here we have the command from Christ to 'teach'—to 'search the Scriptures'—they 'testify of' Christ—they make 'wise unto salvation.'

One to teach Mathematics must first study and understand this science.—In order to progress in studying, he must have a teacher. Who would undertake to pass through Arithmetic, to solve all the intricate problems in Algebra, Trigonometry, conic sections, &c., without a teacher? The minister is commanded to *teach*—to shew himself 'approved unto God'—'a workman that needeth not to be ashamed'—'rightly dividing the word of truth.' In order to do this, the young minister needs as much as the student in mathematics, a teacher. For about three years Christ, the Great Teacher, taught the disciples in the doctrines and truths of His holy word. Having taught them Himself, He also promised the Holy Spirit which should bring to their remembrance all things that He had taught them—yea He says also, "Lo I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world." The Apostle Paul was taught by the same teacher, he says, "I certify you, brethren, that the

Gospel which was preached of me was not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught *it*, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ." (Gal. 1: 11, 12.) It was about three years, after his conversion, before much is known of his public ministry. Some think that while he was preaching to others, during this time, he was himself being more fully indoctrinated, by Christ Jesus, into the great and deep mysteries of the truths of God's holy word. See Gal. 1: 17 and 18. The Apostle becomes a teacher himself, he exhorts Timothy to "continue then in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of knowing of whom thou hast learned *them*." It is said of Apollos, who had traveled with and been instructed by Paul, "This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the Spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord."

With the command to *teach*, to *study*, to search the scriptures, etc., we feel that we are fully authorized, by Christ, to make use of every help for the learning of those things that are to be taught. As it is the object of Theological Schools to teach the doctrines and truths of God's holy word, it is obeying the command of God, by His apostle, 'study to show thyself approved unto God a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.' These things are taught in these schools, and young ministers can, by the assistance of competent teachers, become more capable of teaching the truths of God's word in two or three years study and instruction than for scores of years without these helps. We would not in the least detract from the praise and the usefulness of those self-sacrificing men of God, who, though they have not had the privileges and advantages of theological schools, have gone forth working in the vineyard of the Lord.—Many of them have done nobly and have been the honored instruments in the hands of God in winning souls to Christ.

"The schools *or* colleges *of the prophets are the first of which we have any accounts in Scripture; where the children of the prophets, that is, their disciples, lived in the exercise of a retired and austere life*, in study, and meditation, and *reading of the law of God*." (Eruden's concordance, school.) One of these schools was Naioth; here David and Samuel dwelt when he (David) fled from Saul.—1. Sam. 19: 18. "This Naioth which was in the sububs of Rahma was the Academy of the prophets. And it is probable that among them Samuel chose to spend all the leisure time he could get from the necessary avocations of his public duty. We find more also under the prophets, Elijah and Elisha, at Bethel and in the plain at Jericho." (2. Kings 2: 3, 5, *ibid.*) Samuel was doubtless a teacher, or instructor, or *professor*, in this college, for in verse twenty of nineteenth chapter 1st Samuel, it is said, "And Saul sent messengers to take David: and when they saw the company of the prophets prophesying, and Samuel standing *as* appointed over them, the Spirit of God was upon the messengers of Saul, and they also prophesied."

While Elish was a teacher in a college of the prophets, the sons of the prophets said unto him, the place where we dwell with thee is too straight for us. He gave them leave to go to Jordan and build another college and consented to go with them there also. (2. Kings, 6: 1—6.) What were taught in these colleges of the sons of the prophets? Doubtless they were instructed in the truths of God's word and their duty as prophets and teachers. Is not this, with the instructions of Christ and His disciples, sufficient authority for Theological Schools? We think there is authority enough to satisfy any unprejudiced minds.

From authentic accounts, such as ministers of Associations and Baptist history, we are informed that for hundreds of years back the Baptists have had Theological and other schools for the dissimination of the doctrines and truths of God's holy word. Way back in the dark ages on the continent of Europe, their schools were so far superior to others that the children of the nobility were sent to them to be educated. It is a strange truth that while their schools were patronized by these, the principles of the Baptist were despised. But we need not be surprised at this, when we remember that much more recently the same thing has occurred in our own land, when the Rev. Wm. T. Brantley, Sr., taught in the city of Augusta, Ga., children of other denominations were sent to him as being the best of teachers while the Baptists were contemned.

We come now to consider "the qualifications necessary for students to enter these schools." A student in order to enter one of these schools, to study with a view of preparing himself for the duties of the ministry, must, in the first place give, to a Baptist church, satisfactory evidence of an experience of Grace, or a change of heart. He must, for a time, so live, after having united with the church by experience and baptism, as to satify the church of his genuine piety. He must exercise his gifts before the church sufficiently to satisfy the members that he has been called of God to the work of the ministry. The church being satisfied with his having been born of the Spirit, with his piety and call to the work of the ministry, calls an advisory council or presbytery to assist in the examination, and all being satisfied, the young brother is licensed, by the church, at the recommendation of the presbytery, to preach the Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

With this license, and a recommendation from his church, or from several churches, and sometimes endorsed by the Association, the young brother presents himself for admission into one of these Theological Schools. He is admitted and enters upon his studies, preaching the Word as opportunity may offer. He comes forth from these studies prepared to teach, and thereby to obey the command of Christ to "teach all nations," etc. "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." Having himself been taught the way to translate the Scriptures from other or original languages, the best modes of interpretation, the best modes of sermonizing, the way to do the work of an evangelist, and fully instructed in the duties of a pastor, he is prepared to obey the instructions of the Apostle to Timothy, so to "study to shew" himself "approved unto God" as "a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

May the blessings of God, our Heavenly Father, rest upon all our Theological Schools, upon all the professors and students in those schools; and may he raise up, qualify and send forth many more laborers into His vineyard, is our humble petition, and earnest desire.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION OF THE UNION BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

NAMES OF SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES.	DELEGATES.	Teachers.....	Pupils.....	Total.....	Minutes.....	SUPERINTENDENTS.	POST OFFICES.
Fellowship	A. P. Hodo, J. D. Guyton, P. H. Howard,	1	13	14	1,00	P. H. Howard	Reform, Alabama.
Carrollton	Robert Keith, L. M. Stone,* W. G. Robertson	4	37	41	1,00	W. G. Robertson	Carrollton, "
Providence	W.C. Bell, A.J.Richardson,jr., J.B.Kilpatrick	1	10	11	1,00	P. Kilpatrick	Providence, "
Pickensville	J. J. Lee, J. T. Lang,* J. S. Marques,*	9	46	55	1,75	J. J. Lee	Pickensville, "
Spring Hill, Pick'ns	R. T. Hanks	...	...	...	1,00	...	...
Corinth	J. W. Mitchell, J. L. Holeman, F. R. Gallant	4	48	52	1,25	James Mills	Sipsey Turnpike
Zion	Jacob Parker,* J. H. Pate, J. T. Shirley	5	25	30	1,00	J. D. Parker	Pleasant Grove, Ala
Grant's Creek	...	...	...	...	1,00	...	...
Mt. Zion	...	...	...	...	1,00	...	...
Forest	Wm. Ashcraft, I. Teer, G. Taylor	3	24	27	1,00	J. P. Barnett	Pleasant Grove, Ala
Enon	Clark Richey, H. B. Chappelle, J. D. Stapp*	...	...	...	1,50	...	...
Ebenezer	S. Hildreth, B. C. Walker, H. Easterling*	3	21	24	1,00	B. C. Walker	Carrollton, Ala.
		...	...	...	...	...	...
		30	224	254	13,50		

H. B. CHAPPELLE, IN ACCOUNT WITH SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION.

DR.		CR.	
To amount received from Finance Committee	$13 50	By amount paid for printing these Minutes	$13 50

MINUTES

OF THE

FOURTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION

OF THE

UNION BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH THE

FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH, PICKENS COUNTY, ALA.,

SEPTEMBER 20TH, 1872.

The next Session to be held with Mineral Spring Church, Pickens Co., Ala., on Friday before the 4th Sabbath in September, 1873.

CARROLLTON:
PRINTED AT THE WEST ALABAMIAN OFFICE,
BY HENRY & GILBERT.
1872.

MINUTES.

The Fourth Annual Session of the SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION of the Union Baptist Association, was held with the Fellowship Baptist Church, Pickens county, Ala., on Friday, September 20th, 1872.

Elder M. P. Smith being absent, the Introductory sermon was preached by Elder Robt. T. Hanks, by request; Text, Luke 23: 43.

After a short recess, the Delegates assembled in the church for the transaction of business. The President, Elder Wm. Ashcraft, being absent, Elder Robt. Keith was, on motion, appointed President, *pro tem.*

Letters from the Schools and Churches were read, and names of Delegates enrolled, as per Statistical Table.

On motion, an invitation was given to all unassociated Schools and Churches to unite with the Convention. Corinth School presented a letter and was received.

The Convention was organized by the election of W. G. Robertson, President, and H. B. Chappelle, Secretary and Treasurer.

On motion, invited visiting brethren to seats, and brother H. H. Hilburn was received and cordially invited to a seat.

On motion, appointed the following Committees:

Order of Business.—P. H. Howard, Robt. Keith, and J. B. Kilpatrick.

Religious Exercises.—J. H. Pate, J. J. Lee, and Pastor and Deacons of Fellowship Church.

Documents.—Clark Richey, and S. Hildreth.

Nominations.—J. D. Guyton, and J. W. Mitchel.

Queries.—I. Teer, and R. T. Hanks.

Best Sabbath School Literature.—L. M. Stone, and J. H. Stinson.

Finance.—P. H. Howard, and R. T. Hanks.

On motion, Query 1st, adopted at our last session was discussed and answered. We discountenance school teaching for personal aggrandizement on the Sabbath, but heartily recommend that all our children be taught to read on the Sabbath, if they cannot be taught during the week.

Committee on Order of Business made their report, and subsequent proceedings conducted accordingly.

1st. Following report on Religious Exercises was adopted: That we think it best not to have preaching to-night at the Church, but we trust all will engage in prayer in behalf of the Sabbath School cause.

J. H. PATE, Chm.

On motion, adjourned to meet to-morrow at 9 o'clock, A. M. Prayer by Elder R. T. Hanks.

SATURDAY, 9 O'CLOCK, A. M.

The Convention met, pursuant to adjournment, and was opened with prayer by the President.

2nd. An invitation to visiting brethren was extended, and Elder P. F. Terrel was received and cordially invited to participate in the deliberations of the Convention.

3rd. Report of Committee on Nominations; adopted: Next Introductory Sermon by Elder R. Keith. Subject—"The Scriptural evidence for teaching Sabbath Schools." Alternate, Elder R. T. Hanks. Bro. W. G. Robertson to write an essay on "The duties of Church Members to their Sabbath Schools. J. W. MITCHELL, Chm.

4th. Report of Committee on Documents, adopted: From the letters received from the Sabbath Schools we rejoice to see that there have been many additions to the Church from the ranks of the Sabbath School. In view of these facts, let us therefore be encouraged to work until there shall be an organized Sabbath School in every Church. C. RICHEY, Chm.

5th. The Queries remaining upon the Minutes of last session, were discussed and answered as follows: Query 2nd, we answer—He does not act, as a true disciple of Christ. Query 3rd, we answer candidly and emphatically in the affirmative.

6th. Following report on Queries was adopted: 1st. Is it right for Sabbath Schools to give concerts and similar entertainments, for the purpose of raising money for the benefit of the churches with which they are connected? 2nd. Should a man, however moral, though not a professor of religion, be under any circumstances elected Superintendent or Teacher of a Sabbath School? 3rd. Should a pastor of a church be the Superintendent of the Sabbath School, if there is no other man suitable. I. TEER, Chm.

7th. Committee on Best Sabbath School Literature made no report, in consequence of the absence of the chairman, and on motion, was discharged.

8th. Report of Committee on Finance; adopted: We have received from the Schools and Churches for Minutes, $13.50. P. H. HOWARD, Chm.

9th. Appointed delegates to the Alabama Baptist State Sunday School Convention, Eufaula, Ala., Thursday before 2nd Sabbath in November, 1872. Any member authorized to represent by having copy of our Minutes.

10. Appointed next session of this Convention to be held with the Mineral Spring Baptist Church, Pickens county, Ala., commencing Friday before the fourth Sabbath in September, 1873.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the thanks of this body be tendered the brethren and citizens in this community for their hospitality and uniform courtesy during our stay in their midst; and that we tender to the Chair, our thanks for his faithfulness in presiding over the deliberations of the Convention.

Resolved, That this Convention urge upon the ministers, brethren, schools and churches generally, the importance of establishing Sabbath Schools in every church and neighborhood within its bounds.

Resolved, That we invite all, of every name and sect, to unite and participate with us in the study of God's sacred truth. That we will heartily cooperate with the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention in the spread of the Gospel, by establishing Baptist Sabbath Schools throughout the entire Southern States.

On motion, adjourned. Appropriate and feeling remarks were made by the Chair, when prayer was offered by Elder J. C. Foster. Thus closed the fourth session of this Convention, characterized by perfect harmony and christian affection. W. G. ROBERTSON, President.

H. B. CHAPPELLE, Secretary.

NAMES OF BAPTIST MINISTERS

IN THIS ASSOCIATION, WITH THEIR POST OFFICES.

Jas. DeLoach	Reform, Pickens County, Ala.
R. B. Wilkins	" " " "
J. M. Carpenter	" " " "
J. W. Guyton,*	" " " "
Elijah Howell	Millport, Sanford County, Ala.
I. Hollingsworth	Carrollton, Pickens " "
P. F. Terrell	" " " "
Robert Keith	" " " "
S. Hildreth	" " " "
Wm. Carson	" " " "
W. Ashcraft	" " " "
D. Duncan	" " " "
G. M. Lyles	Providence, " "
J. S. Wooten	" " " "
H. Bradley*	" " " "
A. M. Hanks	Columbus, Lowndes Co., Miss.
J. M. Land	Pickensville, Pickens Co., Ala.
A. A. Ball*	" " " "
J. P. Lee	" " " "
J. L. West	" " " "
R. T. Hanks	" " " "
L. M. Stone, Jr.	Gainesville, Sumter " "
Jacob Parker	Pleasant Grove, Pickens Co., "
M. P. Smith	Union, Greene County, Ala.
J. C. Foster,	Foster's, Tuscaloosa, " "

Ordained Ministers, - - - - - - -	22
Licentiates,* - - - - - - - -	3